





Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Instructional Technology Staff (573) 751-8247

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters>

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Instructional Technology Update

Much attention this past year has been on the No Child Left Behind Act. All programs have strings attached to receiving the funds, and the NCLB is no different. Programmatic burdens can be managed and reduced, however, through proper planning and implementation. During the Technology Leadership Academy and Missouri Educational Technology Conferences, I heard two keynote speakers talk about getting rid of technology plans. Their point is well taken. Technology shouldn't stand alone, but should be embedded in a school's comprehensive school improvement plan. Our new criteria for scoring district technology plans help guide districts through that process.

As states and schools are developing plans that address NCLB, so is there planning at the national level. The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is actively involved with committees working on national and state policy issues that include the development of the national education technology plan, technology literacy assessment, common data elements, and evaluating effective teaching and learning. SETDA is positioned well to work closely with the DOE, to provide input and feedback into the national plan. The states are working closely together to establish standards and consistency that will help reduce reporting burdens at both the national and state levels. Yes, the stakes are high, and the requirements are high. The good news is that here are exciting efforts underway with some early results. -Deb

Required State Approval of District Technology Plans

On October 22, a special mailing was distributed to over 400 Missouri school districts that must submit new or substantially updated education technology plans for state approval, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. The cover letter detailed what action districts must take to be compliant. Enclosed with the cover letter were copies of the district's last approval status, new scoring guide, workshop schedule, planning timeline, and a map of supervisory areas. Copies of these documents are available on our website at <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrotech/directorsdesk/index.htm>.

District Technology Plan Workshops Offered

Instructional Technology and the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association (METPA) are sponsoring workshops to help districts understand the new plan requirements and scoring criteria. Two or more METPA members will present each workshop. METPA members are positioned around the state to help districts develop effective and approvable plans. Districts are encouraged to send planning teams to one of the following workshops. (The workshop schedule can be printed from the website address listed above.) Note that no prior registration is required.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
November 11	9:00- Noon	UMKC Room 307, Fine Arts Bldg 5015 Holmes Kansas City, MO	(816) 235-1096
	Remote site(s)	CMSU 1430 James C. Kirkpatrick Library 601 South Missouri Street Warrensburg, MO	(660) 543-4155

NWMS Campus (660) 562-1995
Room 130, McKemy Center
Maryville, MO

For Map <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/virtualcampus/>

November 13	9:00- Noon	Truman State University Student Union Governor's Room Kirksville, MO	(888) 878-7732
November 14	9:00- Noon	Cape Girardeau Career & Tech Center Multipurpose Room (Room 110A-B) 1080 Silver Springs Rd (Exit 95) Cape Girardeau, MO	(573) 334-0826
November 14	9:00- Noon	Southwest Center for Educational Excellence 600 South Ellis, Suite B Webb City, MO	(417) 673-7078
November 15	9:00- Noon	Rolla Technical Center 500 Forum Drive Rolla, MO	(573) 458-0160
November 18	9:00- Noon	Cooperating School District 1460 Craig Rd. St. Louis, MO	(314) 692-1258
Remote Site	9:00- Noon	Dora High School Hwy 181 S Dora, MO	(417) 261-2346
November 18	1:00-4:00	Missouri School Boards Association 2100 1-70 Dr. SW Columbia, MO	(573) 445-9920

Update on State Funding for FY03 Ed Tech Programs and TAG payments

The Governor's Office is asking state agencies to make additional cuts in their FY03 budgets. At this time, these cuts will not affect state technology funds. Note the following **up-to-date information** (as of this date):

- The latest estimated reimbursement rate for the TAG program is 74%. This will be the most any district can expect to receive this grant year. We will notify schools immediately if further cuts are projected.
- In September, we informed schools of the new payment schedule (40% of the state funds in August/September, 20% in October, 20% in January, and the balance in May). Because of state budget problems, the Department did not receive funds for an October payment. Also note that while the funding made available to the Department for school payments is based on the appropriation, the initial TAG payments were based on a percentage of the state approved amounts. This has resulted in many districts being overpaid and some districts underpaid. Department program and finance staffs will be contacting those schools at either extreme to initiate transfer arrangements.

- Further adjustments will be made accordingly in the January TAG payment to get all districts at the same rate of reimbursement. Since the Department should have 60% of the appropriation by January, we should be able to reimburse TAG grants for up to 44% of their approved amounts. (The state approved amount times the 74% appropriation rate and times the 60% payment rate equates to 44.4% of the state amount.) At this time, we don't expect any further payments to be issued until the final expenditure reports are filed in May.

Census of Technology

The 2002 COT data will soon be ready for analysis and reporting. Like last year, we expect to post the statewide report by the end of the year. We understand the burden that COT imposes on schools; we certainly appreciate your cooperation.

The current Census has been used to evaluate the 1997-2002 state technology plan and TLCF program. We are in the process of revising the census forms for 2003. A few items have been updated or added to align with the 2002-2006 state plan. Many items have been removed, because they are no longer necessary. At this time we are not sure of additional items that might be needed to comply with Title IID program evaluation requirements. Nonetheless, we believe that schools will note a significant reduction in their reporting burden.

The 2003 COT will be collected in the April core data cycle, with an April 15 deadline date. We are in a two-year transition, converting the COT items into data tables more commonly seen in core data screens. Once the Title IID requirements are known, the intent is to have the COT screens completely embedded in core data by 2004.

USF e-rate Program

As the Year 5 e-rate funding process grinds on, the Year 6 application process is scheduled to commence in early November. Late last month, after months of uncertainty, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) announced that all 90% eligible applicants would receive their full discount requests for internal connections. Shortly thereafter, the SLD released the thirteenth wave of commitment letters, which heralded the distribution of \$564.2 million in discounts to 90% internal connections applicants. This release and the recently released Wave 14 bring the total amount of discounts announced in program Year 5 to \$1.389 billion. SLD remains undecided on whether applicants with below 90% discount eligibility will receive some or all of their internal connections funding requests.

Before SLD issues another Year 5 funding wave, it is likely that the Year 6 application will begin. The Form 471 application filing window for Funding Year 6 (July 1, 2000-June 30, 2004) will open at noon EST on Monday, November 4, 2002 and will close on Thursday, January 16, 2003 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

While the SLD continues to process applications, the FCC is grappling with two rulemakings that may lead to significant changes to the rules governing the e-rate's operation and to reforming the process under which funds are collected to support it. The first rulemaking, launched in January 2002, sought comment on a number of e-rate program rule changes, that ranged from the mundane (extending the appeals filing period by an additional 30 days) to the dramatic (imposing sanctions on applicants and vendors that repeatedly violate program rules). While the Commission has issued an order that resolves a major funding issue – what to do with unused funds from previous years, it has still to resolve more than ten other significant issues that it raised in its rulemaking notice.

The second rulemaking, which may not conclude until as late as April 2003, represents the Commission's effort to ensure the solvency of the universal service fund (which funds the e-rate as well as other high cost and low income support programs) by revamping the manner in which its coffers are filled by mandatory fees imposed on the revenues of telecommunications carriers. This rulemaking began early in 2002 but took on new urgency in June when the Commission was forced to utilize nearly \$1 billion in unused e-rate funds to prevent the universal service fund from

becoming insolvent. This solvency crisis arose when the FCC discovered that the economic downturn and stiff competition in the long distance market had caused a precipitous drop in the interstate and international revenues of telecommunications carriers, causing a concomitant decline in carrier contributions based on those revenues to the universal service fund. Facing a significant shortfall in funds available to support overall universal service and fearing that increases in universal service fees would likely lead to higher consumer phone bills, the Commission decided to use unused e-rate funds until April 1, 2003 to compensate for fund shortfalls. The Commission also agreed that, after that date, all additional unused e-rate funds would flow to schools and libraries. Since the Commission will be unable to rely on unused e-rate dollars after April 1, it is pushing hard to develop a new collections system, probably not based on carrier revenues, that will ensure the future solvency of overall universal service. If the Commission chooses a collection method that proves inadequate to support all of universal service, the e-rate may once again be called upon to compensate for substantial fund shortfalls.

The Funding Year 2003 Form 470 is available now for filing online or on paper. Remember that Form 470 must be filed in time to complete the required 28-day posting period before executing any contracts for contracted services, before selecting their service provider for tariffed or month-to-month services, and before signing and submitting Form 471.

For more information on these matters, visit
<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y5/national.asp>.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS RELEASES REPORT ON INTERNET ACCESS IN US PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Last month, the National Center for Education Statistics released the latest installment of its report: Internet Access in US Public School Classrooms: 1994-2001. This report shows that in almost every conceivable socioeconomic category, great strides are being made in connecting public school students to the Internet. According to the report, as of 2001, 87% of public school instructional classrooms are connected to the Internet, a 10% rise from 2000. Interestingly, the greatest strides were made in schools and classrooms serving the lowest income students. For example, while the report indicates that city schools have the lowest instructional classroom connection rate (82%), this figure still represents a 16-point jump since 2000. By way of comparison, town schools, which are the most connected geographically, have a 91% classroom connection rate. Additionally, Internet access in classrooms of schools with 50% or more minority enrollment jumped 17% between 2000 and 2001. Further, schools with the highest rate of students eligible for and reduced price lunches saw their classroom connectivity rate increase by 19 points, to 79%, since last year's study.

While this report features only national demographic numbers and does not breakdown the numbers by states, the data is extremely interesting in terms of gauging the extent of classroom connectivity, broadband penetration, non-school hour Internet access, and student to computer ration improvements. It also includes data about school, classroom and broadband connections, student to computer ratios, and blocking and filtering. The full report can be found at
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002018>.



CONGRESS PASSES OERI REAUTHORIZATION

Just before recessing for the election, Congress passed H.R. 3801, the long awaited and much debated bill to reauthorize the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). The President is expected to sign it into law soon. This bill overhauls OERI, streamlining its structure and realigning its mission and functions to assist states to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act's scientifically-based research and accountability provisions. Towards these ends, it directs

OERI to sponsor sustained, scientifically-based research in education, with an emphasis on increased student achievement, and establishes a competitive grant program (potentially funded at \$25 million) that provides state education agencies with funds to develop statewide, longitudinal data systems to track student progress, and capture and report student data. The bill is also noteworthy because it mandates that many of OERI's divisions focus on education technology, including delivering technical assistance, conducting and disseminating research on innovative education technology approaches, and developing teacher and school leader in-service and pre-service education technology training models. Additionally, under the reauthorized OERI, the new Research and Development Centers will conduct research on how technology affects student achievement, how technology usage relates to cognition and learning issues, what constitutes the most effective and cost-efficient approaches to the use of technology, and how teachers implement technology and Internet-based resources in the classroom. Finally, the new OERI institutes a change that will have a significant impact on states: it eliminates the Regional Technology in Education Centers (RTECs), upon which many states rely for technical assistance, as of the end of 2004, and shifts the RTECs' duties to the Comprehensive Centers.

Technology Plan Review COUNTDOWN to April 2003...5 months

Only 5 months until District Technology Plans are due for review. Districts have long been required to have technology plans for participation in the TAG grant and e-rate programs. NCLB poses new requirements for local plans, which must be in place by June 30, 2003.

- ❖ Only those Missouri district plans evaluated since January 2002 meet the new standards.
- ❖ The next review of district technology plans is scheduled for April 2003. According to our records over 400 districts will need technology plans approved for e-rate; over 90% will need plans approved for Title IID.
- ❖ Visit <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech> to review the new state plan, use the District Technology Planning resources, follow the new scoring guide, make revisions, and submit the revised plan for state approval. Complete a District Technology Plan Review/Approval form, attach it to the plan, and mail to Instructional Technology by March 31, 2003.
- ❖ Plan to attend Writing A School Technology Plan workshop in November.

Please contact the Instructional Technology office at 573-751-8247 if you have any questions regarding these matters.

Show-Me TechKnowledge 2003

--Submitted by Bobbi Weekley, 2003 Show-Me TechKnowledge Chairperson

The second annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day will be held on February 26, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Capitol Rotunda on the third floor in Jefferson City. This is an opportunity for educators to showcase learning through technology to invited Missouri legislators, students, parents and visitors.

Fourteen schools from across the state will be chosen to display outstanding technology projects currently being used in Missouri classrooms to enhance learning and improve student achievement. A cross section of districts and technology uses is being sought. Application deadline is December 6, 2002. Visit the Show-Me TechKnowledge Application link to apply. See [Application](#). Contact Bobbi Weekley @ computerhelp@ktis.net for more information about this year's event.

Conference Highlights and Top Rated Sessions

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

One thousand twenty-two attendees learned from 103 presenters and roamed among 92 vendor booths at the 13th annual Missouri Educational Technology Conference, held at Tan-Tar-A October 6-8.

Nine groups of students — as young as second graders — also exhibited their skills and experiences with educational technology and emerging global classroom communities.

Keynote speakers Ian Jukes and Doug Johnson regaled conference participants with their “predictions” for the future. Did you know that children who enter school this year can expect to have 14 different careers in their lifetimes? And MOREnet, with its partners, is charged with making sure they are prepared for a future none of us can yet conceive.

Five sessions earned high marks from conference attendees. With the presenters’ permission, the conference staff is making the information provided at these sessions available to all educators. A special thanks to the presenters for these outstanding sessions.

Tips and Tricks for Teacher Websites

Roxanna Kerwood (kerwoodr@more.net)
eMINTS Cluster Instructional Specialist, MOREnet

You have a website, but it needs a facelift! How do you spruce it up? This session focuses on a recipe that starts with sound structural guides, followed by excellent design tips and topped off with creative graphic tricks for a functional and professional teacher website.

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/kerwoodppt.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/kerwoodtips.pdf>

Today's Technology In Your Classroom

Susan Wranich (swranich@nkcsd.k12.mo.us)
Maple Park Middle School (North Kansas City School District)

Come see how technology can help you in your classroom! Practical tips, tons of ideas and meaningful examples shared. The Internet and common office applications can help you meet state and district standards. These tools can make your teaching real, relevant and fun! Keep your core curriculum and let the world of technology enhance what you already teach.

The Excel documents stem from an activity conducted with session attendees. As they entered the session they tallied on a large poster what they liked best about coming to Tan-Tar-A. The data was placed into an Excel graph, “Besttantara.” We discussed the applications this had to the classroom. The Word document, “Backyard,” explains a similar activity for the classroom. The Excel document, “Animals in My Backyard,” shows the end result.

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/wranichanimals.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/wranichbackyard.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/wranichbest.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/wranichppt.pdf>

Internet Magic — Free Stuff on the Web

Hayet Woods (hwoods@indep.k12.mo.us) and Sheila Bonner
Computer Resource Teacher, Independence School District

Budget tight? You know there is free stuff on the Internet; it is just a matter of finding it! The work has been done for you in this session. Go to <http://www.indep.k12.mo.us/staff.html> for handouts with all links provided.

Integrating Technology Into the Curriculum

Toby McQuerrey (tobymcq@yahoo.com) and Amy McGowan
9th Grade Social Studies, Jennings School District

Demonstration of technology-based instructional strategies to incorporate into daily curriculum. Strategies demonstrated are TeacherWeb, Xcursion and WebQuest. For session materials go to <http://teacherweb.com/MO/JenningsHighSchool/TobyMcQuerrey>. Click on Documents then open Technology Conference.

Introducing the Newest 4Teacher Tools!

Erica Schaapveld (ericas@hprtec.org)
High Plain Regional Technology in Education Consortium

You've already been using our tools. You've bookmarked TrackStar, RubiStar and QuizStar — now let us show you some of our brand new tools. NoteStar, ThinkTank and CasaNotes are brought to you by the HPR*TEC team. We are striving to bring you even more free Web-based tools and resources to help you with the smooth integration of technology into your classroom. Come see these innovative tools and start using them today!

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/ericaassign.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/ericapics.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/ericathink.pdf>

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/ericacasa.pdf>

Mark your calendars now for the 14th annual Missouri Educational Technology Conference: October 19-21, 2003.



METPA Announces Winners of the 2002 Educational Technology Awards

--submitted by Doug Allen, METPA Communication Officer

<http://www.metpa.org>

METPA, the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association, announced the winners of the first annual Educational Technology Awards October 7, 2002, during the Fall Educational Technology Conference at Tan-Tar-A. These awards recognize outstanding achievement for educational technology in two categories:

- Outstanding District, School or Classroom web page
- Best Practices in Technology Professional Development

Plaques were presented to each of the 2002 winners and the runner-ups during the conference Monday evening reception. The 2002 winners were:

Outstanding District, School, or Classroom Web Page:

Web Page Grand Award to:

Waynesville Middle School - LEAP Classroom

Honorable Mention to:

Branson High School - Branson Band Web Page

Columbia School District – Parkade Elementary

For Best Practices in Technology Professional Development:

Grand Award to:

Jennings School District - MINTS

Honorable Mention to:

Warrensburg R-VI School District - Learning with iAdventures

Independence School District - Generation I

Congratulations to all of this year's winners. Nominations for the 2003 awards will be available at the spring educational technology conference as well as on the METPA web site. Winners of the 2003 awards will be announced at the Fall 2003 Educational Technology Conference.

E-rate for Beginners Teleconference Available on MOREnet Website

--Submitted by Jeanne Sullivan, MOREnet

jeanne@more.net

E-rate for Beginners, originally presented on Oct. 17, 2002, by the Virginia Department of Education, is designed for first time applicants, applicants that have been denied or rejected in the past, or for people that have just been handed the "e-rate file" as part of their job duties. This teleconference will walk applicants step-by-step through the application and funding process with advice on avoiding funding denial or rejection and updates on filing deadlines.

MOREnet has archived the e-rate satellite teleconference broadcast for viewing. The teleconference is available in the Resources section of MOREnet's e-rate web site at <http://www.more.net/services/e-rate/resources/teleconferences.html>

RealPlayer is required to view the teleconference
(http://www.real.com/realone/index.html?src=player_redct).

Arts Across Missouri to Produce Missouri's First Choral Event by Interactive Television (ITV) Across the State.

--Submitted by Lora Smith, MODLA Executive Director Missouri Distance Learning Association

www.modla.org

Arts Across Missouri will present the Southwest Showchoir Showcase from the Ronald R. Burton Performing Arts Center, Webb City High School on November 2, 2002. The Showcase is a competition and clinic featuring 30 school show choirs from Southwest and Central Missouri. The event will be broadcast to 10 locations around the state including Joplin, Maryville, Nevada, Rolla, Reeds Spring, Sedalia, St. Louis, Springfield, Warrensburg and selected high school locations. These locations will not only view the event but will also provide critiques to the groups from the fine arts faculty of the partnership. This event will be the first of a number of Arts Across Missouri presentations.

The Missouri Choral Directors have committed to using virtual auditions to select the first Statewide Show Choir. The virtual auditions will be conducted on January 11, 2003 at selected partner locations around the state.

Missouri Southern College, Central Missouri State University, the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension and MOREnet are providing technical support to this event.

Arts Across Missouri is a strategic partnership dedicated to establishing an Arts Education network in Missouri with a goal to bridge the digital divide through the arts. The partnership is bringing higher education, K-12, public and private arts programs together, as well as providing the groups content across the state with an emphasis in reaching rural Missouri.

Information concerning Arts Across Missouri is available from the Jefferson City - Telecommunications Community Resource Center, telephone 573-638-9439, email ISTS.TCRCMO@mo.ngb.army.mil .

Southwest Education and Technology Conference Call for Presenters

--submitted by Lisa Jones, Director of Technology, Clever R-V School District
www.rcet.net

The Regional Consortium for Education and Technology in southwest Missouri invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 14th Annual Southwest Education and Technology Conference. The conference, to be held March 4-5, 2003 in Springfield, Missouri offers professionals an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas on the present and future of educational technology. This conference is aimed at using technology for instruction by showcasing the latest in classroom applications, displaying software and hardware, and providing sessions and workshops dealing with issues of technology in today's schools. Topics include, but are not limited to educational computing, innovative uses of software, multimedia, funding, telecommunications, and technology planning and should be geared toward elementary and/or secondary teachers, tech directors, and/or administrators. Presentations should focus on the integration of technology in today's classrooms.

We will offer 10-15 pre-conference sessions on Tuesday, March 4, with audiences restricted to 25-50 attendees, and 25-40 breakout sessions on Wednesday, March 5 with variable audience sizes of 10-75 attendees. We ask that you consider presenting either a forty-five minute breakout session on Wednesday, March 5, with variable audience sizes of 10-75 attendees. We ask that you consider presenting a morning or afternoon pre-conference workshop on Tuesday, March 4.

Conference or pre-conference registration fees will be waived for pre-conference presenters. Conference fees will be waived for breakout session presenters. There is a limit of two presenters for each session. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please log onto the RCET-SW web site at www.rcet.net or contact the RCET-SW office at 417.895.2722 to receive appropriate forms by November 29, 2002. We hope you will become involved in our exchange of ideas on the present and future of educational technology. Check our web page for conference info and updates.



SuccessLink's New Handheld Computer Initiative

--Submitted by Michael Flynn, SuccessLink

SuccessLink's mission is to find ideas and resources that work in schools and share them with Missouri educators. Noted resources and initiatives provided through SuccessLink include the Best Practices program, online Great Teaching Idea lesson plans, and specialized training programs such as the Technology Leadership Academy, incorporating cooperative learning strategies, and teaching elementary science. The newest initiative, begun this year, is a handheld computer pilot project.

SuccessLink initiated the handheld project after having the opportunity to see the power of these tools, also known as PDAs, when students are given ubiquitous access. With access throughout the day, and possibly 24 hours a day, students use handhelds to facilitate learning in exciting and meaningful ways. Some examples of how handheld computers are providing an extra spark to student learning include:

- Elementary students developing keyboarding skills,
- Middle and high school students using probes to conduct science experiments,
- Middle school students creating and sharing writing assignments, and
- Students in various grades using graphing calculators to understand and solve problems.

The pilot project is located in several classrooms within the Farmington School District. Teachers in these classrooms are learning how to implement the tools in everyday teaching. The lessons that are being prepared will be shared as they are completed. However, visits to these classrooms will not be available until the 2003-2004 school year.

SuccessLink is eager to showcase these and other Missouri teachers and administrators who have successfully integrated handheld computers into their daily routines. **SuccessLink will host a handheld computer conference for Missouri educators at Tan-Tar-A on June 26-27, 2003.** The conference will show current, practical applications of these tools in instruction, in all grade levels, and school administration and data management. Details as to keynote speakers, costs and times will be made available in 2003. If you know of any educator who has been successful with these tools, and/or who might want to be involved in the conference, please contact Mike Flynn at SuccessLink, at 1-888-636-4395 or mflynn@successlink.org.

Missouri Schools and Programs in the News

MOREnet, eThemes

The eThemes Web Site (<http://emints.more.net/ethemesindex.html>) has been selected as a "Best Bet" on the USA TODAY Education Web site October 30-November 4, 2002. (<http://www.usatoday.com/educate/home.htm>)

Each week the USA TODAY Education online staff selects three "Best Bet" sites they feel would be of educational value to their audience of subscribers and guests. These sites are listed on the USA TODAY Education home page with a brief description and a link to the site. Fewer than 150 sites are selected each year as USA TODAY Education "Best Bet" Web sites. CONGRATULATIONS!

eMINTS

Many of the eMINTS teachers and staff presented at MOREnet's Fall Technology Conference at Tan-Tar-A in October. Take a look at the names and topics presented:

Jill Rice	Designing Learning Environments
Theresa Smith and Laura Grubb	Addicted to Chocolate
Susan Turner Sneegas and Company	The Zoo in You
Susan Stillwell	Let's Go International!
Roxanna Kerwood	Tips & Tricks for Teacher Websites
Susan Evans, Joanna Brooks and Carmen Marty	Sail into MAP
Ruth Petsel, Terri Walker, Kelle Dement	It's all IN Technology
Anne Jeschke and Patricia Palmer	EconON-Line
Cara Wylie	Making Connections through On-line Projects
Janice Friesen and Stephanie Bengston	Learn About PowerPoint
Monica Beglau & OSEDA Team	eMINTS Evaluation Report

Congratulations to ALL!

Learning With Technology

-Featuring Gainesville R-V and Exeter R-VI

Gainesville R-V

Gainesville's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund (TLCF) grant has provided a total of \$67,500 over two years for instructional technology available to Junior High students. The goal of *Project Transition Technology* is to provide modern technology, Internet access, software and the training that is necessary for students to be successful with the new curriculum and testing assessments

they encounter at Gainesville R-V School. The target population is made up of approximately 135 students in grades 7-8. This represents 36% of the Gainesville Jr./Sr. High student body.

During the first year, Project *Transition Technology* provided a computer lab with 16 computer workstations available for 7th-8th grade students' use. Two multimedia presentation equipped carts with computers linked to the computer lab network were provided for 7th-8th grade math and science teachers' classrooms to facilitate the planning, implementation, instruction, and assessment of student projects. Software for the Math and Science content areas was purchased to provide practice of instructional and technological applications. Teachers attended training that assists them in computer and software applications. They in turn are training students in the classroom and scheduling computer lab sessions to provide students access to computers to complete class projects stressing higher-order thinking skills and cooperative learning strategies.

The second year provided five additional multimedia presentation equipped carts with computers for the classrooms to allow more computers for individual student time on task. Software was purchased for the Communication Arts, Social Studies, and Health/Physical Education areas. Teachers of these courses as well as the special education teacher attended training and are passing that knowledge on to their students through technology integrated class projects.

The content areas chosen for this project are the areas measured on the MAP testing assessment. With this new assessment, students are required to use application and reasoning skills. A deeper knowledge of the subjects must be acquired by students in order for them to score well on the tests. Computer applications specifically targeted to these content areas must be available for teacher and student use in order to provide enhanced learning opportunities. For more information, contact Patsy Hamilton at phambelt@gainesville.k12.mo.us

Exeter R-VI

Three years ago Exeter School District was at ground zero with regards to technology. The small amount of technology that existed was located in administrative offices. Low tests scores, a majority of our students reading below grade level, and a staff that was computer illiterate were problems that had to be solved immediately. The addition of technology to aid in increasing MAP scores and to improve student reading surfaced in every committee meeting. Parents and community members were concerned about the school's failure to include technology as a part of future plans for the district. Realizing that the district could not possibly fund the needed technology, a plan was developed to write a grant for its acquisition. That plan was based on the district's ability to obtain funding through the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.

Approval and funding for the district came in the spring of 2001. Since that time an estimated one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars has been used to equip each elementary classroom with two computers, establish a complete computer lab for the elementary school, purchase needed software and licenses, employ a technology coordinator, and train teaching staff in the use of technology to augment daily lessons. The majority of the funding came from the TLCF. Our tests scores are rising, the number of students reading below grade level has been drastically reduced, and the professional staff feels comfortable using technology in their classrooms. The district students, staff, and parents feel a part of the twenty-first century.

The use of technology has made it possible for us to engage in distance learning, add software for the school lunch program and student grading systems, rewrite our curriculum, place emphasis on student research projects, enhance daily lessons in all classes, and improve professional development for certified and classified staff members. For more information contact Paul Terpening at pterpening@exeter.k12.mo.us



Copyright Question of the Month

Q. May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others create a video/audio recording of a student performance for later use with students?

A. Yes The educator or the institution may record and retain a copy of the performance only if the recording is used for evaluation, critique, or rehearsal purposes. It may **not** be copied and distributed.

Mark Your Calendar

November 1	Newsline published online
11	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) UMKC Room 307, Fine Arts Bldg. 5015 Holmes, Kansas City, MO
11 (Remote Site)	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) CMSU 1430 James C. Kirkpatrick Library 601 South Missouri Street, Warrensburg, MO
11 (Remote Site)	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) NWMS Room 130, McKemy Center Maryville, MO
13	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) Truman State University Student Union (Governor's Room) Kirksville, MO
14	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
14	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) Cape Girardeau Career & Tech Center Multipurpose Room (Room 110A-B) 1080 Silver Springs Rd. (Exit 95) Cape Girardeau, MO
14	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) Southwest Center for Educational Excellence 600 South Ellis, Suite B, Webb City, MO
15	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) Rolla Technical Center 500 Forum Drive, Rolla MO
18	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) Cooperating School District 1460 Craig Rd., St. Louis, MO
18 (Remote Site)	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (9:00-noon) Dora High School Hwy. 181 S., Dora, MO
18	Writing A School Technology Plan Workshop (1:00-4:00) Missouri School Boards Association 2100 I-70 Dr. SW Columbia, MO
25	Newsline articles due
28-29	Thanksgiving Holidays—State offices closed
December 1	Newsline published online
6	2003 Show-Me TechKnowledge applications due
12	Show-Me TechKnowledge Executive Committee meets to review

24	applications
25	Newsline articles due
	Christmas—State offices closed
January 3	Newsline published online



Upcoming 2002 Conferences

November 12-14	National Summit on Recruiting, Retaining, and Certifying Quality Teachers U.S. Grant Hotel, San Diego, CA www.performanceweb.org
November 12-15	NSBA'S Technology + Learning Conference 2002 Dallas, TX http://www.nsba.org/T+L
January 27-29	Midwest Education & Teaching Conference Millennium Hotel, St. Louis Cooperating School Districts
February 3-5	Ohio SchoolNet Technology Conference 2003 Columbus, Ohio http://www.osn.state.oh.us
February 4-6	2003 Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) Orlando, Florida http://www.fetc.org
February 19-21	New Technologies in Training and Technical skills Orlando, Florida http://www.salt.org
February 19-25	Interface Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
February 25-27	K-12 School Networking Conference: Achievement, Assessment & Accountability Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA
March 4-5	RCET-SW Conference University Plaza, Springfield, MO www.rcet.net
March 17-19	Microcomputers in Education Conference Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona http://mec.asu.edu
March 19-20	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
March 19-20	Missouri Research and Education Network HELIX (Higher Education Learning & Information eXchange) Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
June 30-July 2	MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium) NECC Seattle, WA



From the Mailbag

The Blue Web'n Update

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn>

The Blue Web'n Update lists the weekly additions to SBC Pacific Bell's Blue Web'n, a searchable online library of blue-ribbon websites. Blue Web'n sites are categorized and searchable by Grade Level, Content Area, Application, and Dewey Decimal Number. Go to <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn> and either browse the content table, or conduct a search for age-appropriate materials (see the link to Grade Level search near the top of the page).

CyberSmart is a free, standards-aligned curriculum for teachers to introduce safe, responsible and effective computer and Internet use in the classroom. The lessons and activities provide links to web sites as well as offline activities that complement the sites. Each lesson is tied to National Educational Technology Standards. The presentation is simple and uncluttered--just what you want when you are trying something new! Grades K-8. (added 10/18/02, reviewed 10/18/02)

Grade Level:	Early Childhood (K-2), Elementary, Middle School, Adult/Professional
Content Area:	Community Interest (Leisure), Education (Curriculum) [Dewey #375]
Application type:	Other Resources

What States Need to Know About NCLB

http://www.nasbe.org/Front_page/press_Release.html

The National Association of State boards of Education (NASBE) has issued a "quick read" issue Brief highlighting the major state requirement of the new federal education reform law. The No Child Left Behind Act: What States Need to Know is the second in a series of policy primers on timely education issues.

Source: National Association of State Boards of Education.

Classroom Ergonomics

http://www.wired.com/news/school/0,1383,55349,00.html?tw+wn_ascii

With technology now a fixture in most classrooms and many homes, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) has issued a set of ergonomic strategies for parents, teachers and kids. The goal is to protect kids from injury associated with prolonged computer use.

Source: Wired News

Looking for Software Solutions to Improve Your School or District's Performance in Math

<http://www.mathresources.com/products/mathresource.php>

MathResources offers innovative software solutions to improve your school or district's performance in math. We focus exclusively upon providing middle school and high school students and teachers with easy-to-use software applications for "doing" math on desktops, laptops and handheld computers. Our software programs can help your school or district by:

1. Supplementing and enhancing your math curriculum
2. Providing comprehensive reference tools to increase the content knowledge of your math teachers
3. Offering powerful resources to your teachers for presenting mathematics concepts to students in a highly visual and engaging manner
4. Making available graphing and calculating solutions that save money but offer teachers and students far more power and functionality than traditional graphing calculators.

Products Offered By MathResources

Let's Do Math: Tools & Things (for grades 4 to 12)

Let's Do Math: Tools and Things covers the entire math curriculum from Grades 4 to 12. Interactive tools are used to illustrate, define, and animate over 1,100 math terms. A powerful graphing calculator is included and provides comprehensive, easy-to-use graphing and calculating power.

Visit the "Product" section of our website, or click on the following link (<http://www.mathresources.com/products/tools.php>), to view an on-line demo of *Let's Do Math: Tools and Things*.

Let's Do Math: Graphing & Calculating (for grades 6 to 12)

Let's Do Math: Graphing & Calculating provides an easy-to-learn and easy-to use interface for graphing and calculating. The program contains over 120 functions and 11 graphing templates and has a unique Help system that allows teachers and students to start solving problems within 15 minutes of installing the software.

Visit the "Product" section of our website, or click on the following link (<http://www.mathresources.com/products/graphing.php>), to view an on-line demo of *Let's Do Math: Graphing and Calculating*.

MRI-Graphing Calculator for Windows CE/Pocket PC (for middle school, high school and college)

The *MRI-Graphing Calculator for Windows CE/Pocket PC* provides incredible graphic and calculating functionality for mobile devices. Over 130 mathematical functions and eleven different graphing windows provide all of the computing and graphics capability required for the classroom. Coverage, power and ease of use define this unique software product and make it a very powerful tool for teaching and learning mathematics.

Visit the "Product" section of our website, or click on the following link (<http://www.mathresources.com/products/mriscalc.php>), to view an on-line demo of the *MRI-Graphing Calculator for Windows CE/ Pocket PC*.

The MathResource: Interactive Math Dictionary (for high school honors math and AP Calculus)

The *MathResource* is a powerful, comprehensive reference tool for anyone in the fields of math, science, or engineering. It combines the 5000+ terms and definitions of the *HarperCollins Dictionary of Mathematics*, a proprietary search engine, and the plotting and calculating power of the symbolic math engine *Maple*, into one tremendous mathematical resource. Because every operation is "point and click", you never have to write a single line of Maple code. This makes calculating and graphing sophisticated math equations much easier. It is equally useful as a presentation tool for teachers to quickly and easily display the power of mathematics or as an investigative tool for honors and AP Calculus students to explore more advanced mathematics.

Visit the "Product" section of our website, or click on the following link (<http://www.mathresources.com/products/mathresource.php>), to view an on-line demo of The MathResource: Interactive Math Dictionary.



Internet Sites of Interest

Veteran's Day

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>

Library of Congress: Veterans History Project

<http://www.va.gov/pubaff/celebAm/acts4vd.htm>

Activities for Veterans Day

[http://www.theteachersguide.com/Veteran's Day.htm](http://www.theteachersguide.com/Veteran's+Day.htm)

Activities for Veterans Day Teacher's Guide to Veteran's Day

http://www.patriotism.org/veterans_day/index.html

Veteran's Day Resources

Thanksgiving

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/>

Thanksgiving online activities

Guidance and Counseling (Elementary)

<http://www.counselorandteachertips.com/>

Tips, Strategies and Resources for Elementary Counselors and Teachers

<http://mis.spps.org/counselors/units.html>

Elementary Counseling Classroom Units

<http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/schools/hillsboro/specials/guidance/guidance.html>

Nine Week Plan for Classroom Guidance Lessons K-5

Music

<http://datadragon.com/education/>

Music Education @ DataDragon.com

<http://www.childrensmusic.org>

Children's Music Web

<http://www.hnh.com/mgloss.htm>

HNH - Naxos Classics

<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~tas3/bachindex.html>

JS Bach: Analysis of Canons & Fugues

<http://www.menc.org/>

MENC: The National Association for Music Education

Planets and the Moon

<http://www.the-solar-system.net/3d/main5.html>

Resource site with pictures of the planets and their moons.

Newest eThemes

Barbarian Invasions in the 4th-6th Century

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000757.html>

These sites are about the Barbarian invasions in the 4th through 6th centuries and include information on Germanic tribes, the Huns, and the Mongols. View many maps showing the routes of the invasions. Also includes timelines, a video, and some activity ideas.

Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000796.html>

These sites have information about the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team and the sport of baseball. Read about the players, managers, owners, and history of the St. Louis team. Includes articles on Jack Buck, Darryl Kyle, Roger Marris and Mark McGwire. There are several fun interactive baseball games and some math baseball games. A link to an eThemes Resource on the Negro Baseball League is included.

Famous People: George Washington Carver

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000805.html>

These sites are about George Washington Carver, his life, his scientific achievements, and his impact on American agriculture. Learn about his national monument located in Missouri and how you can order a traveling trunk for your classroom. Also includes biographies, activity ideas, quizzes, lesson plans, and information about peanuts and sweet potatoes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on writing biographies.

Famous People: Kurt Warner

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000811.html>

These sites focus on Kurt Warner, the quarterback for the St. Louis Rams. Learn how he overcame adversity to lead his team to the Super Bowl. Includes his football statistics and information about his foundation. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on writing biographies.

Famous People: Jackie Robinson

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000807.html>

Learn more about Jackie Robinson, his achievements in sports, and his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Includes biographies, photographs, and interviews. There are also some audio and video clips, plus links to eThemes Resources on the Negro Baseball League, famous black Americans, and a book about Jackie Robinson

Book Week Celebrations

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000812.html>

These sites offer fun ideas for celebrating National Children's Book Week, November 18-24, 2002. Suggestions include having guest speakers, read-ins, character dress-up days, poetry festivals, and writing contests. There are links to eThemes Resources on book activities, story elements, and dioramas.

Literature: "My Side of the Mountain" by Jean Craighead George

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000813.html>

These sites include suggested activities for the book "My Side of the Mountain" and biographies about the author. Also learn about wilderness survival, the Catskill Mountains, and peregrine falcons. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on forest habitats.

Literature: "Teammates" by Peter Golenbock

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000794.html>

These sites are about the book "Teammates" by Peter Golenbock. Includes book reviews, lesson plans, online activities, and interactive quizzes. Listen to an audio file of an interview with the author. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Jackie Robinson.

Literature: "The Pinballs" by Betsy Byars

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000806.html>

These sites include suggested activities to accompany the book "The Pinballs" by Betsy Byars. There are also sites on foster care and statistics about foster children. Includes links to eThemes Resources on Betsy Byars' book "Trouble River," book activities, and story elements.

Literature: Books by Judy Blume

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000443.html>

These sites have information about author Judy Blume and activities to go along with several of her books including: "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing," "The Pain and the Great One," and the "Fudge" series.

Writing: Biographies

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000832.html>

These sites offer tips for writing biographies. There are lesson plans, helpful handouts, rubrics, and examples of biographies written by elementary students. Includes a video about the writing process.

Animals: Horses

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000809.html>

Learn about different horse breeds and how to properly groom and feed a horse. Includes many photographs and a video. There are some online games, coloring pages, and trivia questions.

Animals: Identifying Bones

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000786.html>

These sites are about how to identify different animal bones. View many pictures of animal skulls and see how they differ. Includes online games and hands-on activities. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on owls that includes links about dissecting owl pellets.

Animals: Manatees

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000842.html>

These sites have information on manatees, an endangered species. Read about their behavior, reproduction, and habitat. View photographs, videos, and a live Webcam of these underwater animals. Includes information about the manatee's hearing problem and ways to protect them from boating accidents. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on endangered species.

Trees

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000835.html>

Learn how to identify various species of trees from their leaves. Many sites focus on Missouri trees. Also find out why leaves change color in the fall. Includes a leaf cam, online games, handouts, art activities and other lessons relating to trees.

Medieval Knights

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000798.html>

These sites are about the knights from the Middle Ages or the medieval period. Covers the topics of heraldry and chivalry. Includes photographs of armor and weapons used by knights. There are links to eThemes Resources on medieval castles and feudalism.

Country: Malaysia

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000826.html>

These sites have information about Malaysia's government, people, and history. View maps and photographs of life in this Asian country. There are recipes for popular dishes, images of the country's currency, and a clock showing the current time. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on rainforests.

Writing: Character Traits

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000847.html>

These sites focus on character traits and include lists of adjectives that students can use to improve their writing. There are also many activity ideas for having students identify the traits of main characters in stories. Includes lesson plans, graphic organizers, and a link to an eThemes Resource on adjectives.

Grammar: Adjectives

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000262.html>

These sites have explanations and examples of adjectives. Includes many activity ideas and handouts as well as an online game and a word search.

On-line Projects

I Lost My Tooth

http://www.internetschoolhouse.com/projects_teeth.html

This on-line project is now accepting registrations. This is a “tried and true” for many eMINTS classrooms. Besides the opportunities to graph and compare the rate of “tooth loss” students share information about weather, landforms, culture and much more from all over the world.

National Math Trail

<http://www.nationalmathtrail.org/>

This on-line project has students from all across the United States writing math problems that relate to their own environment and culture. Problems are posted on-line and available to all participants through out the year.

Seasons Across America

<http://www.eduplace.com/projects/seasons.html>

This is a great project for all students as they take photographs of the changes in the environment around them and watch as fall and then winter truly “arrive” in each area of the country. Fall participation is still available and winter is getting ready to begin. This is a great class science fair observation opportunity.